

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 1, 2006, claims 85 – 87, 93 – 96 and 100 – 101 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,883,621, issued to *Iwamura*. Claims 88 – 89, 91, 96 and 98 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Iwamura* in view of US Patent 5,793,366, issued to *Mano et al.* Claims 90 and 97 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Iwamura* in view of US Patent 6,826,512, issued to *Dara-Abrams*. Finally, claims 92 and 99 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Iwamura* in view of US Patent 6,182,094, issued to *Humbleman et al.*

Claims 85-93 and 101 – 105:

Iwamura discloses a process to play video from a digital VCR (DVCR) on a television through an integrated receiver decoder (“IRD”). The IRD provides a MPEG decode function to decode the video stream transferred across a 1394 serial connection from the DVCR to the IRD. The IRD only receives the video and decodes the video for display on a television. In contrast, amended claim 85 recites, in part:

control/playback set-top box ... said media control module comprising an applications module for accessing, across said network, at least one digital data content object from said acquisition storage set-top box, and for running at least one media application that provides functionality, through a user interface, to play media, ...; and

client device, coupled to said control/playback set-top box, for displaying said user interface for said media application and for playing media comprised in said digital data content object.

As claimed, the control/playback set top box (claim 85) and control and acquisition storage set-top box (claim 101) execute media applications. The media applications include user interfaces to add functionality to play media on client devices. For example, the media application may comprise a photo application that presents photos to the user in a user interface (e.g., display groups of photos in a slide show).

None of the cited references, including *Iwamura*, disclose or suggest implementing media applications on a control/playback set top box (claim 85) or control and acquisition storage set-top box (claim 101) for display on a client device, and therefore none of the references, either alone or in combination, anticipate claims 85 – 93 and 103 – 105 or claims 101 – 102.

Claims 106 - 111:

In new claim 106, Applicants recite, in part:

acquisition storage set-top box, coupled to said network, for storing a plurality of different types of digital data content objects;

control/playback set-top box... comprising an applications module for accessing, across said network, at least one digital data content object of at least one type from said acquisition storage set-top box, and for running at least one

of a plurality of media applications suitable for said type of digital data content object, . . . ; and

client device, coupled to said control/playback set-top box, for playing media comprised in said digital data content object in accordance with said media application.

Thus, as claimed, a media application is run based on the type of digital data content object. For example, if the type of digital data content object is a digital photo, then a digital photo application is run. Again, the media application does not merely play media, but provides additional functionality to provide an application for playing media.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest implementing media applications for different types of digital data content objects on a control/playback set top box, and therefore none of the references, either alone or in combination, anticipate claims 106 – 111.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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